



20th Year, 2nd Issue
June 2002

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*“If you think you
are too small to
be effective...you
have never been
in bed with a
mosquito.*

– Betty Reese

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Communicator

Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Bobbie Beth's Tidbits...

Just like the quote to the left, if you keep showing up, whether it be via email, letters, phone calls, or in person, you will get people's attention. That is exactly what happened with Senate Bill 152. As many of you already are aware, this bill requires insurance companies to cover the cost of hearing aids (up to \$1400 per hearing impaired ear) every three years for children under the age of 18.

A similar bill was defeated last time but with persistence and a lot of hard work, this year it passed without one "no" vote. In addition, House Bill 416 passed. This bill removed the cap of \$200,000 per year for administering the TTY Distribution program. See articles elsewhere in this newsletter about the above bills.

Another bill, House Bill 196, approved the Governor's transfer of First Steps (Kentucky Early Intervention System) to the Commission on Children with Special Healthcare Needs. Another resolution, HJR 148, requested that the Cabinet for Health Services do a study surrounding a distribution system for used assistive devices.

These are examples of ways that a group of people with a common goal and persistence can make a huge difference in the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people. The KCDHH would like to thank all those who helped this session and encourage everyone to get involved with legislative issues in the future to make Kentucky a better place for its deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

DeaFestival Kentucky 2002 is headed for the Finish Line!



In the home stretch! As DeaFestival 2002 heads for the finish line at the Kentucky Horse Park on June 29th the KCDHH staff has taken up the duties of DeaFestival, in addition to their daily work, with great zest. Everyone is jockeying to make "their" part of the program better than ever, creating an atmosphere of competition and creativity. DeaFestival will, indeed, be the best ever!

Bobbie Beth

Commission Members

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Cabinet for Health Services
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Betty Timon
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Representative

Mona McCubbin
Service Provider Representative

Dr. Viola Miller
Cabinet for Families and Children
Secretary

The deadline to submit information and articles for the September 2002 edition of the Communicator is August 2002. All materials provided through KCDHH are available in accessible format upon request.

SB 152 Helps Provide Hearing Aids for Children

The Commission formed the Hearing Aid Insurance Coverage Study Group in the summer of 2000. This was a result of efforts of Commissioner Trish Freeman, who took the initiative on her own to place legislation before the Kentucky General Assembly that would relieve the burden of the cost of hearing aids for parents of children with hearing loss. Commissioner Freeman has two children with hearing loss. Insurance did not cover the cost of their hearing aids. Today's hearing aids can be quite expensive since the emergence of new and better technology. This study group was formed to give her support and assistance in getting this bill passed. Initially, this bill was introduced in the 2001 General Assembly with Senator McGaha as its sponsor. Its chance of passage seemed promising. However, after it passed a Senate Committee, full Senate, and House Committee, it was never called to the full House floor for a vote.

Regardless, the study group did not give up. They modified their original bill to include concerns of various groups, involved more individuals and groups than before and then Dr. Freeman met with Senator McGaha to discuss bill sponsorship. As a result of that meeting, Senator Buford was approached to assume primary sponsorship of the bill, with Senator McGaha acting as co-sponsor.

KCDHH staff and Dr. Freeman met with Senator Buford in January 2002 and received his commitment to introduce and sponsor the bill. Senate Bill 152 was filed on January 30th. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on February 21st, after Dr. Freeman, Ms. Melissa Barman (also a parent of a child with hearing loss) and Mr. Jeff Bracken (deaf himself) testified before committee. It was sent to the Senate floor and voted on there passing unanimously on March 6th.

The bill was then referred to the House Banking and Insurance Committee and was passed unanimously out of committee on March 13th, after Dr. Freeman testified again in favor of the bill. Instead of going directly to House floor, it was referred to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee. While this usually leads to a bill's death late in the session, that was not the case for SB 152. The KCDHH staff and members of the study group pushed hard to get the bill heard in committee and were successful in getting the Chairman of the committee, Rep. Harry Moberly, to waive the posting rules so that the bill could be heard.

The bill passed unanimously out of the committee on March 19th, after Dr. Freeman testified again in favor of the bill and by Secretary Carolyn Palmore, Personnel Cabinet Secretary, testified regarding the fiscal impact of the bill to the state employee's health insurance plan. Senate Bill 152 was called for a vote before the full House on March 22nd, where it also passed unanimously.

The Governor signed SB 152 into law on March 28, 2002. The law will go in effect on July 15th. The work of the hearing aid legislation study group is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when persons from all aspects of the deaf and hard of hearing community work together toward a common goal.

Commission Staff

Bobbie Beth Scoggins, Ed.D.
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Renee Armstrong, Interpreter Relations Coordinator
Anita Dowd, Information Program Coordinator
Rowena Holloway, Program Coordinator
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Dana Parker, Executive Staff Advisor
Julie Posey, Interpreter
Kim Weldon, Access Center Outreach Coordinator
Sharon White, TTY Administrative Assistant
Paula Wiese, Executive Secretary
Dianna Wright, Executive Staff Interpreter
Wilma Wright, Administrative Assistant

DeaFestival-Kentucky 2002 Programs

Hands Across the World, Children's Program

10:00 am till 3:00 pm

Peter Cook and Todd Czubek take us on a magical journey through the Wizardry world of Harry Potter. The stage comes alive for children of all ages as we promote literacy and encourage reading skills while educating others about the similarities of Harry Potter's experiences and that of the Deaf World. Other assorted guests and Little Theater of the Deaf will help make this production Something spectacular. Come one come all, children young and old...and the child within.

Culture and Traditions

10:00 am till 3:00 pm

Patrick Graybill, Walter Kelley, Melanie McKay-Cody, Tammy Jo Beatty and Freddie X, Russell Howard and Kentuckian's such as Garland

Best, and Barbie Harris and the Little Kentucky Performers from KSD give us a glimpse into the rich history and traditions of deaf culture as we explore *Generations, to Generations, to Generations*.

Visual Artist's Studio

10:00 am till 6:00 pm

This year we are striving to give the visual artist studio a stronger focus and allow the artist to showcase and sell their work to the mainstream community. For this reason, we have expanded the Visual Artist Studio to operate for two days. June 28th, Friday evening, *by special invitation only*, a "buyers market" will take place. This allows agencies and individuals in the mainstream community an opportunity to view and purchase, or commission work from the artists.

On Saturday June 29th, the visual artist's work will be displayed and available for sale to the public. Some

of the artist's featured include; Chuck Baird, Susan Dupor, Paul Johnston, Tony McGregor, Dennis Long, Rita Straubhaar, Helen Openheimer, Jeff Carroll (DeaFestival curator), and locally known, Velda Taylor, Buelah Hester and Jack Cochran just to name a few.

SpotLight's, the Main Stage

12:00 pm till 6:00 pm

Terrylene, Phyllis Frelich, Beethoven's Nightmare band, CJ Jones, the Wild Zappers, Native American dancers, and Illusion of ASL will turn back the clock to some of our most eventful memories, the 70's, where changes in the world were inevitable and happened rapidly.

Tie dye, disco, protest songs, polyester leisure suits, love beads, Volkswagen beetles, peace signs and Rock and Roll. Let's make Peace happen!

DeaFestival 2002 Sheraton Four Points Hotel and Horse Park Campground

Sheraton Four Points Hotel, in Lexington, has been selected as the **HOST hotel**. Reservations can be made online at www.deafestival.org and will automatically transfer you into the DeaFestival rooming and camping block, giving you the best possible price, at \$70 excluding taxes per night. You can also make reservations by phone at (859-259-1311), or via email to allison.champer@fourpoints.com. Please include the following information; subject line in E-mail to read: DEAFESTIVAL 2002 RESERVATIONS, your name, address, phone number, check-in date, number of nights, bed type preference and accessibility requirements. You must give the hotel the **reservation code of 899** and mention that you are connected to the DeaFestival-Kentucky block to receive the rooming block price. **The deadline is June 14, 2002.** Camping is also available at the Kentucky Horse Park campgrounds. If you do not have access to Internet, contact DeaFestival/Kentucky Horse Park, Deaf Campground Committee P.O. Box 618, Frankfort, KY 40601. **The deadline is May 28, 2002.**

DeaFestival-Kentucky Horse Park Deaf Campground

Campground Rates

- \$23.00 + \$2.00 upfront to make reservations per night - 1-6 Persons
- \$20.00 + \$2.00 upfront to make reservations per night - Senior Citizens
- \$15.00 + \$2.00 upfront to make reservations per night - Primitive

KSDAA's 30th Anniversary Celebration

August 2-4, 2002

All events are taking place on campus at the Kentucky School for the Deaf.

Friday, August 2	6:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Brady Hall
Saturday, August 3	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Thomas Hall
	6:00 pm to 12:00 am	Grow Hall (30 th Anniversary Banquet)
Sunday, August 4	9:00 am to 6:00 pm	Grow Hall

To receive flyers, please send your current address to:

KSD Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 311
Danville, Kentucky 40423

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